

Frontiers in Cardiovascular Imaging

B.L. Zaret, L. Kaufman,
A.S. Berson, R. A. Dunn, eds.
New York: Raven Press; 1993,
362 pp., \$82.

This book comprises the proceedings of a March 1992 symposium, conducted by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, that covers the entire spectrum of noninvasive cardiac imaging. The workshop faculty members are primarily cardiologists; only a few are nuclear medicine physicians.

This book's great strength is its discussion of nonnuclear methods of car-

diac imaging. Ultrafast computed tomography, diagnostic ultrasound, digital subtraction angiography, magnetic resonance imaging, plus other new and esoteric techniques receive excellent treatment. For those not involved in these techniques, the book may be a very good primer.

The basic science discussions throughout the text are also well done. The scientific basis of cardiac metabolism, the biology and biochemistry of the normal and infarcted myocardium, and the technology underlying the various new imaging modalities are well covered.

However, the section of the book that deals with cardiovascular nuclear medicine is weak at best. The chapter that deals with quality control in SPECT

imaging presents no visual examples of artifacts. There is also an example of triple-headed versus single-headed detector imaging, which purports to show the superiority of triple-detector systems. The example looks more like new-camera versus old-camera imaging.

This book is directed primarily at cardiologists. I strongly recommend the book only to nuclear medicine professionals who wish to understand other techniques for imaging cardiac disease. The treatment of nuclear medicine is superficial, and much better discussions can be found elsewhere.

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